

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/933,782

Applicant(s)

VAN OVERVELD, CORNELIUS
WILHELMUS ANTON

Examiner

Joseph P. Hirl

Art Unit

2129

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to September 1, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-8, 10, 11, 13-16 and 18-25.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |



Examiner's Amendment / Reasons for Allowance

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

In the Claims

2. All claims for this application are to read as follows:

1. A computerized method of providing a recommendation to a user for a recommended piece of clothing from an inventory of apparel of the user, for use by the user, comprising:

maintaining a clothing profile of the user, including the inventory of apparel and preferences of the user,

detecting a piece of clothing being selected from the inventory and updating the clothing profile based on said selection,

generating the recommendation for the recommended piece of clothing from the updated clothing profile, and

providing the recommendation to the user.

2. A system for generating a recommendation to a user for a recommended piece of clothing from an inventory of apparel of a user, for use by the user, comprising:

a user profiling unit that is configured to maintain a clothing profile of the user, including the inventory of apparel and preferences of the user,

one or more sensors that are configured to detect a selected piece of clothing being selected from the inventory, coupled to the database for updating the clothing profile based on the selected piece of clothing,

a recommendation unit that is configured to generate the recommendation for the recommended piece of clothing from the updated clothing profile, and

a rendering system that is configured to present the recommendation to the user.

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3. The system of claim 2, wherein

the recommendation unit is further configured to:

determine a list of available pieces of clothing from the inventory,

and combine plural pieces from the list to form a collection of subsets,

the recommendation comprising at least one subset from the collection of subsets.

4. The system of claim 3, wherein

the recommendation unit is further configured to eliminate from the collection a number of subsets that are not suitable for a present situation.

5. The system of claim 2, wherein

the user profiling unit is coupled to a smart card reader/writer that is configured to maintain the clothing profile stored on a smart card.

6. The system of claim 2, further comprising

input means for determining a purpose for which the piece of clothing has been selected,

the user profiling unit being further configured to update the clothing profile further based on the determined purpose.

7. The system of claim 6, wherein

the input means is arranged to determine the purpose based on an appointment in an electronic calendar.

8. A computerized method of presenting a targeted clothing advertisement to a user, comprising

obtaining a clothing profile for the user,

determining a clothing product that matches the clothing profile, and

sending an identifier of the clothing product to the user,

generating a representation of the clothing product using the identifier, and

rendering the representation to the user.

9. ~~The method of claim 8, further comprising~~

~~—generating a representation of the clothing product using the identifier and~~
~~—rendering the representation to the user.~~

10. The method of claim 8, wherein the clothing profile is obtained by reading the clothing profile from a smart card.

11. A computerized method of presenting a recommendation of an ensemble to a user, comprising:

maintaining an inventory of apparel possessed by the user,

determining one or more subsets of apparel from the inventory suitable for forming the ensemble, based on a one selected from: a user preference, current fashion, a dress code, or prior selected ensembles, and

presenting at least one of the one or more subsets of apparel to the user.

12. ~~The method of claim 11, wherein~~

~~—determining the one or more subsets suitable for forming the ensemble is based on at least one of:~~

~~—a user preference,~~

~~—current fashion,~~

~~—a dress code, and~~

~~—prior selected ensembles.~~

13. The method of claim 11, wherein

determining the one or more subsets suitable for forming the ensemble is based on at least one of:

a dominant color of the ensemble,

a color of each apparel in the subset,

a dominant style of the ensemble,

a time of year for wearing the ensemble,

a time of day for wearing the ensemble, and

current environmental conditions.

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14. The method of claim 11, wherein

determining the one or more subsets suitable for forming the ensemble includes at least one of:

applying one or more rules,

determining one or more distances,

determining one or more weights, and

modifying parameters used for determining the one or more subsets based on prior user selections.

15. The method of claim 11, further including

identifying an apparel item that is not in the inventory that would form another subset suitable for forming the ensemble if combined with apparel in the inventory.

16. An apparel recommendation system comprising:

an inventory system that is configured to maintain an inventory of apparel possessed by a user,

a processor that is configured to identify one or more subsets of apparel in the inventory suitable for forming an ensemble, and

a display that is configured to present at least one of the one or more subsets of apparel to the user,

wherein

at least some of the apparel includes a tag that identifies the apparel to the inventory system.

~~17. The system of claim 16, wherein~~

~~at least some of the apparel includes a tag that identifies the apparel to the inventory system.~~

18. The system of claim 16, wherein

the processor is configured to identify the one or more subsets based on ~~at least one of~~ a one selected from: a user preference, current fashion, a dress code, prior selected apparel, ~~and or~~ prior selected ensembles.

19. The system of claim 16, wherein

the processor is configured to identify the one or more subsets based on at least one of:

- a dominant color of the ensemble,
- a color of each apparel in the subset,
- a dominant style of the ensemble,
- a time of year for wearing the ensemble,
- a time of day for wearing the ensemble, and
- current environmental conditions.

20. The system of claim 16, wherein

the processor is configured to identify the one or more subsets via at least one of:

- applying one or more rules,
- determining one or more distances,
- determining one or more weights, and
- modifying parameters used for determining the one or more subsets based on prior user selections.

21. The system of claim 16, further including:

- a network interface that is configured to facilitate receipt of advertisements for other apparel,

- the processor is further configured to filter the advertisements based on whether the other apparel forms another subset suitable for forming another ensemble if combined with apparel in the inventory, and

- the display is further configured to present the another subset to the user.

22. The system of claim 21, further including:

- an input device that facilitates a purchase of the other apparel in the another subset by the user.

23. The system of claim 16, further including
a smart card read/write device, and
wherein the processor is further configured to transfer some or all of the
inventory of apparel to a smart card via the smart card read/write device.
24. The system of claim 23, wherein
the processor is further configured to transfer one or more user
preferences to the smart card via the smart card read/write device.
25. The system of claim 16, wherein
the system is further configured to detect an initial selection of a first
apparel item, and
the processor is configured to identify the one or more subsets based on
this initial selection.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given by fax dated October 26, 2005 from applicant's attorney, Robert M. McDermott.

Reasons for Allowance

3. Claims 1-8, 10, 11, 13-16, and 18-25.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The cited prior art taken alone or in combination fails to teach the claims invention of apparel recommendation based on the user's inventory apparel selection therefrom and recording such actions in a clothing profile. Renderings can be made of the recommendation. Based on the clothing profile, targeted advertisement can be made specifically to the user configured to a specific rendering. Mixes and matches can be made within the inventory based on established references. Using tags for apparel identification, a display presents appropriate ensembles to the user.

The closest prior art (Suzuki, U.S. Patent 6,313,745) teaches a system and method for fitting room merchandise item recognition using wireless tag where the server develops recommendation of other products that the customer might be interested based on the items taken into the fitting room or using a customer ID card, containing a profile of past trial and purchase information. Suzuki fails to teach recommendations based on user's inventory apparel selection, development of related renderings, targeting advertisements including renderings to a user related to the

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clothing profile, identification of ensembles based on user's inventory, and display (i.e. computer) of subsets of apparel based on the inventory of the user.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Correspondence Information

Any inquiry concerning this information or related to the subject disclosure should be directed to the Primary Examiner, Joseph P. Hirl, whose telephone number is (571) 272-3685. The Examiner can be reached on Monday – Thursday from 6:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, David R. Vincent can be reached at (571) 272-3080.

Any response to this office action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks,

Washington, D. C. 20231;

Hand delivered to:

Receptionist,

Customer Service Window,

Randolph Building,

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401 Dulany Street,

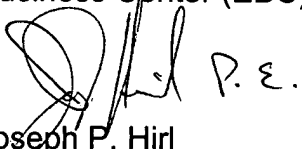
Alexandria, Virginia 22313,

(located on the first floor of the south side of the Randolph Building);

or faxed to:

(571) 273-8300 (for formal communications intended for entry.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have any questions on access to Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll free).



Joseph P. Hirl
Primary Examiner
March 16, 2006